

RICE LAKE

NARRATIVE REPORT

JANUARY-DECEMBER 1964

Division of Wildlife Refuges

Narrative Report Routing Slip

Refuge RICE LAKE Year 1964

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RICE LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

NARRATIVE REPORT

JANUARY - DECEMBER, 1964

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

MC GREGOR, MINNESOTA

REFUGE PERSONNEL

Claude R. Alexander (to 6/15)	Refuge Manager
Carl E. Pospichal (from 6/23)	Refuge Manager
Lyle L. Strand (to 7/17)	Maintenanceman
Leonard F. Hurd (from 8/16)	Maintenanceman
Leland A. Thornbloom	Refuge Clerk

W.A.E. EMPLOYEES

Clyde Ammala	Operator General, Light Duty
Dwight C. Bailey	Foreman II, Laborer
Leslie E. Drone	Laborer
Viljo Johnson	Laborer
Leonard F. Hurd	Foreman II, Laborer
Emerson J. Kirsh	Laborer
George Mudgett	Operator General, Light Duty
Archie Moose	Operator General, Light Duty
John A. Nordstrand	Operator General, Light Duty
Claude S. Turner	Operator General, Light Duty
Sam Yankee	Laborer
Myron J. Zimmerman	Operator General, Light Duty

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I GENERAL

A. Weather Conditions:

	<u>Precipitation</u>			<u>Max.</u>	<u>Min.</u>
	<u>Month</u>	<u>Normal</u>	<u>Snowfall</u>	<u>Temp.</u>	<u>Temp.</u>
January	<u>.46</u>	<u>.633</u>	<u>4.70</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>-18</u>
February	<u>.07</u>	<u>.599</u>	<u>1.15</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>-14</u>
March	<u>1.34</u>	<u>1.239</u>	<u>14.70</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>-12</u>
April	<u>2.64</u>	<u>2.343</u>	<u>4.40</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>14</u>
May	<u>4.19</u>	<u>3.716</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>31</u>
June	<u>4.85</u>	<u>4.071</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>29</u>
July	<u>2.64</u>	<u>4.440</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>48</u>
August	<u>8.45</u>	<u>3.970</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>35</u>
September	<u>5.87</u>	<u>2.749</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>30</u>
October	<u>.50</u>	<u>1.575</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>19</u>
November	<u>1.34</u>	<u>1.258</u>	<u>4.50</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>-22</u>
December	<u>1.42</u>	<u>.725</u>	<u>15.00</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>-24</u>
Annual Totals	<u>36.41</u>	<u>27.318</u>	<u>44.45</u>	Extremes <u>95</u>	<u>-24</u>

The Government Weather Station at Sandy Lake Dam, located 23 miles north of refuge headquarters is the source of our weather data. The moisture listings for months in which snow fell include the precipitation which fell as rain and the snowfalls which were melted for measurement here at refuge headquarters.

A new normal for precipitation was computed using recorded data for the last 20 years from 1945 to 1964, inclusive.

January began with above normal temperatures. The first ten days of the month saw temperatures reach as high as 46 degrees and the night-time lows down to 12 degrees. One stretch of cold weather occurred from January 9 to 14 with night-time lows down to -18 degrees. However, the weather broke and mild temperatures prevailed. In fact, light rain fell on January 24 and 25, accompanied by high winds. This turned to snow and was the only bad weather all winter. A cold front followed on the heels of the snow and once again lows of -18 were recorded. The weather once again moderated and the high and low at the end of the month were 45 and 14 respectively. Compared to January of a year ago this one was mild indeed, and set some records for it's mildness. Last January was so severe that it set many new records for bitter cold.

February was a fairly mild month with little precipitation being recorded. The bulk of the winter's snow fell during March. A total of 14.7 inches with moisture content of 1.34 inches was recorded. Temperatures during the month were quite variable. One day would be quite warm followed by extremely cold temperatures - often below zero readings. April continued with the same type of weather which of course is typical spring weather for this part of the country - warm and sunny one day, snow and cold the next followed by wind and rain. Precipitation for the month totalled 2.64 inches.

May and June were close to normal with above average temperatures and rainfall occurring. July was one of the hottest we have had for quite some years. Temperatures in the high 80's and 90's prevailed for most of the month. The high for the month was 95 with the low a recorded 48 degrees. In addition to the high temperatures the humidity was very high. One consolation was the fact that it did cool off to a comfortable temperature during the night. August began with the same high temperatures. In the first seven days rainfall totalled 3.70 inches. Rain continued to fall and by month's end a total of 8.45 inches was measured. All low areas were flooded and made late harvesting of hay and other crops near impossible. Rain continued to fall during the month of September and again above normal precipitation was received. Strong winds prevailed most of the month. Conditions made it virtually impossible for farmers to harvest the balance of their hay and grain crops. The first frost of the

fall season occurred September 15. October was a very beautiful month with fair temperatures although some strong winds did occur. The rainfall for the month was practically nil, and levels in lakes and Rice River began to recede rapidly. By the end of the month flooded conditions were alleviated except in the very low places. The first snowfall of the season took place November 26, and the monthly total recorded was 4.50 inches. For the first time in several years this area truly had a white Christmas. Fifteen inches of snow fell during the month of December accompanied by some cold readings, the lowest being minus 24 degrees.

B. Habitat Conditions:

1. Water:

Water management from spring through the balance of the year was primarily a problem of allowing passage of enough water through the refuge to maintain approved water levels. Elevations were held up during the winter months to benefit furbearers and to encourage nesting Canada geese to select sites above the high water line. In early summer it became apparent that heavy precipitation and river flow would make maintenance of approved elevations difficult. Both Rice Lake and the Rice River Pool exceeded approved elevations in May. Rice River remained that way until October and Rice Lake until December. Heavy release of water through the Rice River control caused flooding west of the refuge and resulting complaints. The winding nature of the river and the high water in the receiving Mississippi River complicated water drainage. The continued high level of Rice River made it extremely difficult to release water from Rice Lake. The small Rice Lake control is inadequate for rapid drawdown of the lake and it was frequently necessary to replace the stoplogs in order to prevent the river from flowing into the lake. It was not until late fall that water elevations approached desired levels. Precipitation during the year was 36.41 inches or 8.08 inches above normal.

New road construction on the north side of the refuge was delayed until flood waters could be drained off through the installation of several large steel culverts. The problem there was principally one of water seeking the Rice River from the north, which had to be released into the refuge for eventual elimination.

The winter freeze-up occurred on November 19, when the last openings on Rice Lake closed over.

2. Food and Cover:

Cultivated crops provided considerable food for upland game and deer during the winter months to supplement their natural diets. Waterfowl utilized these same areas during the spring. Browse was adequate for the deer herd which came through in excellent condition. Light snowfall posed no mobility problems.

There was no wild rice crop on the refuge in 1964 but it was poor in other lakes outside the refuge also. Other emergents such as arrowhead (*Sagittaria*) and bulrush (*Scirpus*) produced excellent stands of cover for young and moulting waterfowl. These, however, were partly inundated by late summer water levels. Submerged aquatics produced well, particularly wild celery (*Vallisneria*). Strong winds and heavy wave action caused considerable turbidity and uprooted large amounts of these aquatics during late summer and early fall. Waterfowl food conditions were good despite the excessive water levels but general habitat conditions in the primary refuge pools were inferior to those created in flooded lowlands by these same high water levels. Marginal areas on the refuge benefitted from flooding as indicated by good waterfowl use. Flooded willow growth along Rice River proved attractive to roosting wood ducks on two primary sites. Haylands, pastures and other cleared lands provided adequate nesting habitat for both waterfowl and upland game.

II WILDLIFE

A. Migratory Birds:

1. Whistling Swans:

Though it was light, the spring swan migration peak was up slightly from 12 in 1963 to 30 in 1964. However, no swans remained during the summer as they did a year ago and the fall migration did not stop in during this past fall. In 1963 there were 500 swans on Rice Lake during the fall flight. The total days' use dropped by several hundred per cent.

2. Geese:

There was a promising increase in use by Canada geese during the spring of 1964. Peak numbers rose from 175 to 300. The summer population was down slightly but production was up from 150 to 175 young birds reared. Another encouraging note was nesting noted on outlying areas. Peak fall use was up over 12 per cent but the birds moved on more normally in late November, with only 70 remaining at the end of the year. Higher peak use and better production are encouraging signs

in spite of the fact that total days' use was down slightly.

Blue and snow geese showed only slight use during the spring of 1964 but none were present in 1963. Fall peaks were equal to those of a year ago but the birds did not remain as late as they did last year when they were still present during the deer season.

3. Ducks:

Ducks showed increased use of the Rice Lake Refuge both in peak numbers and total days' use during the spring migration, in spite of arrivals one to two weeks later than a year ago. Mallard use was about equal to the previous year but substantial increases were noted for blacks, pintails, blue-wings, shovelers, wood ducks, ringnecks, scaup and buffleheads. Green-winged teal, goldeneyes and both hooded and common mergansers showed decreased spring use. No gadwalls were observed last spring. It was encouraging to note light use by redheads and canvasbacks where none were observed the previous spring.

Summer use was down drastically, probably due at least in part, to the high water levels and lack of rice which made the area less attractive to the birds. Total use dropped from 1,227,059 in 1963 to 842,850 in 1964. The 1964 peak of 10,420 was about one-third of the 30,520 of the previous year. Only blacks, pintails, wood ducks, ringnecks and hooded mergansers showed increased use. Interestingly enough, duck production was about equal to the previous year.

Fall use showed the most dramatic difference in duck use from the previous year. Mallard use alone was down by two-thirds, with total days use down from 5,170,847 in 1963 to 1,651,650 in 1964. Peak use dropped from 168,400 to 48,650. Gadwalls, buffleheads and hooded mergansers showed increased use; all others were less.

The high water, lack of a rice crop and extremely attractive habitat outside the refuge created by the high water, all combined to keep refuge waterfowl use down this past year. The birds were in the area but did not mass on the refuge as is common in normal or drier years. This was not felt to be a matter of great concern since the picture could change quickly in another year. Under 1964 conditions hunting opportunities were the best in years for this area. Equal production to 1963 showed good use by nesters but less attraction as a moulting and loafing area under 1964 water conditions. These are conditions which can be interpreted and from which much can be learned. It is evident that the vast lowlands in the refuge vicinity can be managed for water-

fowl if sufficient water is available. It is regrettable that more of this type is not included within the refuge boundaries.

4. Coots:

The spring coot migration of 1964 was much lighter than the previous year and three weeks later. Summer use was double that of 1963. Fall use, as with ducks, was also down in 1964. Total use for the year was just under 223,000 days or slightly less than half that of 1963.

5. Other Water Birds:

Common loons were observed in small numbers during April and an occasional sighting was made on Mandy Lake during the summer. Horned grebes were noted only during the spring migration but pied-billed grebes were summer residents. Great blue herons and double-crested cormorants nested on the Rice Lake island again this past year. American bitterns were common summer residents as were sora and Virginia rails. One pair of sandhill cranes spent the summer on the refuge. Their nesting status is unknown.

6. Shorebirds, Gulls and Terns:

Woodcocks nested on the refuge in fair numbers and a good migration was noted in mid-October. Killdeer were common summer residents. Golden plovers were seen in late September. Other shorebirds using the refuge were Wilson's snipe, spotted, least and pectoral sandpipers and greater and lesser yellowlegs. Common and black terns used the refuge extensively. Ring-billed gulls were fairly common throughout the summer and early fall, with herring gulls less common during the early fall period.

B. Upland Game Birds:

There was little change noted in upland game bird populations during the past year. Ruffed grouse remained fairly static, as did sharp-tailed grouse and ring-necked pheasants. The open winter was not desirable for the native grouse though it may have been of some benefit to the pheasants which are not considered to be on optimum habitat here. The 1964 fall and early winter gave promise of heavier snow. No pinnated grouse have been seen other than one possible report by Mr. Hurd in early June.

C. Big Game Animals:

White-tailed deer had an easy winter in 1963-64 and came through in good condition. Since snow cover was no problem, they were able to move freely and feed normally. Browse was therefore adequate. A good fawn crop resulted in an estimated population of 200 deer and observations throughout the summer were common. About 100 young were produced.

A carryover of about 75 animals was noted after the refuge deer seasons. The winter of 1964-65 gives promise of a severe one and it may be necessary for the animals to yard if present conditions continue. Good supplies of corn and other cultivated crops were still available to those deer on the west side of the refuge at the close of the year.

Black bears were observed occasionally throughout the summer. Peak use was estimated at 10 animals. No small cubs were seen but tracks were noted. The refuge acorn crop again served to provide a source of food for the bears of the refuge and vicinity.

Moose were observed at several times during the summer, generally a lone cow. One observation along the entrance road reported the possibility of a large bull. The last observation on the refuge this past fall was a cow heading north out of the area on the opening day of the deer season. A large bull was killed by deer hunters south of the refuge and was salvaged by wardens.

D. Fur Animals, Predators, Rodents and Other Mammals:

Several mink were noted during the summer by the refuge manager. This was not apparently a good indicator of trapping prospects since the catch was light.

The muskrat population on Rice Lake was fairly good. The take by one trapper did not appreciably affect the number of 'rats on the refuge. The bulk of the houses were along the north shore, many on the shoreline itself.

Otter signs were observed from time to time throughout the year. A small resident population has shown little or no change for several years.

Weasels were common residents.

Several small beaver colonies exist on the refuge in areas where they are creating no problems. The small population does not justify harvest this winter.

Red foxes were fairly commonly seen in early fall but had pretty well dispersed by the end of the year. Coyotes were not seen though it is possible that a report of a timber wolf seen by hunters on November 7, may have been a coyote.

No bobcats or signs were observed this past year.

Raccoons were common over the entire refuge. Limited control was carried on.

Badgers were only occasional on the refuge.

Skunks were also commonly noted and were controlled as the opportunity permitted.

Porcupines were regularly observed, especially in the northern portion of the refuge where as many as four were seen along the new road one day.

Gray and red squirrels were present in only fair numbers. Grays appeared down from a year ago.

High water levels appear to have caused a considerable drop in mouse populations on the refuge. Fairly high numbers were noted last winter.

E. Hawks, Eagles, Owls, Crows, Ravens and Magpies:

Red-tails, rough-legs, marsh hawks, Cooper's, sharp-shins, goshawks and sparrow hawks all used the refuge at some time during the year. Occasional broad-wings were also noted. Duck hawks were occasional during the fall migration. The goshawk was the last observed in December.

Northern shrikes were common fall and winter residents of the refuge.

Bald eagles were present through the summer and fall months in small numbers, usually not more than six being observed in a single day. Those observed were mostly adult birds, outnumbering the immatures two to one. No golden eagles were identified. Dead or crippled waterfowl appeared to be the primary fare of the eagles on the refuge.

Great horned and barred owls were commonly seen and heard on the refuge, with the barred most noticeable. Saw whet owls were present in small numbers. Only three observations of snowy owls were made, these ranging from late October through November.

Crows were quite common. Ravens were noted only during the fall.

Only a single magpie was seen by refuge personnel, this one by Mr. Thornbloom.

F. Other Birds:

The usual migrations of flickers, warblers and various sparrows was noted. Robins did not appear in good numbers. Evening grosbeaks were very common during fall and winter.

G. Fish:

Due to high water most of the summer fishing was not very good on the public fishing area. Some northernns were taken but none were very large.

The State Fisheries Crew finished their fish rescue work for the 1963-64 season on March 2. Their take was very small, numbering 9,502 fish for a total of 14,218 pounds. As in the past, these fish (northern pike) were put in neighboring lakes.

On November 17, the State Crew began their 1964-65 operations by putting in fish traps at the Rice Lake outlet and below the dam on Rice River. By the end of the year, water oxygen content was still high and fish take was running low.

Northern pike planted in the larger of the Twin Lakes located at the picnic grounds winter-killed. It is doubtful if further attempts will be made to stock this lake.

H. Reptiles:

Garter snakes and snapping turtles compose the most notable species in this area. Painted turtles are also common.

I. Disease:

No disease was indicated among refuge wildlife except for three or four ring-necked ducks found dead from causes unknown. This was very possibly natural mortality as other birds were not observed to be affected.

III REFUGE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

A. Physical Development:

Primary development related to new roads within the refuge. These permit access to areas in the northern and southern portions of the refuge formerly accessible only on foot. This

work included dragline excavation of peat, grading with mineral soil and graveling. Contract work was done by Erland Ammala, Jerry Sullivan and Lundin Construction Company.

Contractor Sullivan finished dragline excavation of 27 potholes in the marsh directly south of refuge headquarters. This work was completed by the last of February.

As soon as weather permitted in the spring, contractor Fred Lake began filling the low spot in the Rice Lake dike. This was the area that kept sinking away as reported in the September-December, narrative for 1963. Although the dike is still below grade in this area the fill is holding.

Routine maintenance and repair was conducted on equipment, fencing, posting and other physical features of the refuge. Roads were bladed and plowed and grounds were maintained, including the Twin Lakes Picnic Area.

Croplands were farmed by refuge personnel to provide wildlife foods.

B. Plantings:

1. Aquatic and Marsh Plants:

None.

2. Trees and Shrubs:

None.

3. Upland Herbaceous Plants:

None.

4. Cultivated Crops:

Over 200 acres of cultivated crops were planted and cultivated by refuge employees. This included corn, buckwheat, rye, oats, sorghum, soybeans, millet and flax. While primary cropping was for waterfowl, some crops such as flax were used in an attempt to provide for sharp-tailed grouse which are known to have used this crop well during their peak years. Yields ran from only fair to good on the various crops but a large amount of wildlife food was produced. Fall rye was well used, as was the buckwheat, by both waterfowl and upland game birds. Corn and other species received lesser use during the fall but should provide excellent winter and spring food sources.

C. Collections and Receipts:

No wild rice crop was available for harvest in 1964.

D. Control of Vegetation:

No chemical control was exercised on the refuge in 1964. Mowing of some areas was used to control woody or herbaceous growth encroaching on roadsides, agricultural and hay units.

E. Planned Burning:

Only burning to facilitate removal of trash from A.P.W. clearing operations was carried on. No habitat management through this means was attempted.

F. Fires:

None.

IV RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

A. Grazing:

Two permittees grazed a total of 27 animals for a total of 156 AUM'S.

B. Haying:

Although there was a better hay crop than in 1963, wet weather in August and September made it impossible for permittees to harvest all the hay in their units. The total cut for eight permittees was 200.5 tons which was down 17.5 tons from 1963. All hay units are again spoken for in 1965 and the hay yield should be fairly good.

C. Fur Harvest:

One trapper worked practically the entire refuge during the state trapping season which ran from November 14 to December 20. His total take was as follows:

Mink	7	Muskrat	43
Weasel	6	Skunk	4
Raccoon	1		

For the first time in many years Rice Lake was open for the trapper to take muskrats. However, due to very low prices on 'rats he made very little effort and consequently a small portion of the available population was taken. Mink prices were fairly high and though he concentrated his efforts here his total take was small.

D. Timber Removal:

Five permittees cut a total of 98,510 board feet of timber. In addition 355 cords of various species were cut with an additional 899 posts of cedar and tamarack being cut. Principal sawlog species cut was basswood, birch, ash and elm, maple, red oak and balsam in that order. Timber cut was quite an increase over 1963 and just about used up all the good merchantable timber on the refuge. Some good pockets of peeling aspen remain but very few good logs. The demand for basswood, birch and ash remain high. The local woodworking plant in McGregor and one in McGrath keep the market value up.

E. Commercial Fishing:

None.

F. Other Uses:

None.

V FIELD INVESTIGATION OR APPLIED RESEARCH

A. Waterfowl Banding:

Banding was carried on as in previous years to mark local Canada geese and to participate in the wood duck and Dew Line banding programs.

High water complicated wood duck trapping efforts but the lack of wild rice allowed for baiting in and trapping a larger percentage of the refuge mallard and black ducks than was possible a year ago.

Banding success on the various species was as follows:

<u>Specie</u>	<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>		<u>Total Banded</u>
	<u>Adult</u>	<u>Immature</u>	<u>Adult</u>	<u>Immature</u>	
Mallard	150	342	349	374	1,215
Black Duck	164	64	46	42	316
Pintail	5	1	4	5	15
Widgeon	-	1	1	2	4
Wood Duck	50	8	15	10	83
Ring-neck	-	-	1	-	1
Green-wing teal	-	3	-	1	4
Canada Geese	-	8	1	12	21
Coot	-	-	-	1	1
Totals	369	427	417	447	1,660

B. Canada Geese:

Although the program of holding captive geese to maturity is now completed with the firm establishment of a nesting flock, about 20 flightless birds remained on the refuge. These are being temporarily taken care of at the Rice Lake outlet where they have open water and the freedom to roam at will. No predation has been noted so far this winter. If these pinioned birds are not producers, it may be just as well to donate them to a zoo or other civic organization. They do, however, provide an opportunity for visitors to view geese at close range.

VI PUBLIC RELATIONS

A. Recreational Uses:

Deer hunting and fishing constituted the activities most closely connected with the refuge wildlife resources. The deer season was quite successful, with several trophy bucks taken. Northern pike fishing in the Rice River afforded many hours of relaxing enjoyment, though the fish caught were not large.

Bird watching, photography, picnicking, plant study and sight-seeing were major recreational attractions. Visitors were able to drive the refuge roads and observe all forms of wildlife from deer to waterfowl. Many sportsmen and nature lovers stopped in for information relative to the refuge or wildlife species.

State northern pike rescue operations again netted a considerable amount of rough fish, many of which were used by local residents. These fish ran largely to yellow perch in 1964, whereas the

bullhead was tops in 1963. Strangely enough, the bullhead is preferred over the perch, probably because of the perch's reputation of being grubby.

B. Refuge Visitors:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
State Fisheries Crew	Minn. Cons. Dept.	1/16	Fish Rescue
James Marcum	Area Game Warden	1/20	Marsh Survey
LeRoy Angell	Area Game Manager	1/20	Marsh Survey
W. Gulberson	Minn. Cons. Dept.	1/28	Fish Rescue
David Millar	Civil Defense	2/12	Visit
Cy Jacobson	Area Game Warden	2/17	Visit
Glenn Maxim	KDAL-TV, Duluth	2/29	Film TV Short
Fred Ferguson	State Employment Officer	3/16	Empl. Records
James Marcum	Area Game Warden	4/9	Visit
LeRoy Angell	Area Game Manager	5/12	Woodcock Mgmt.
BUREAU REGIONAL OFFICE EMPLOYEES		5/23	ORIENTATION TOUR
Bob Johnson	Boy Scouts	5/24	Camp Sites
Clyde Schnack	Bureau Realty Branch	6/8	Land Acquisition
George Gard	Bureau Wetlands Mgr.	6/9	Vehicle Transfer
Glenn Maxim	KDAL-TV, Duluth	6/15	Film TV Short
D. Cherry	Washington Office	6/18	Refuge Tour
C. Fermanich	Central Office	6/20	Refuge Tour
Frank Martin	Asst. Ref. Supervisor	6/20	Refuge Tour
Lloyd Lindvall	Bureau, U.S.G.M.A.	7/12	Visit
Clark Webster	Central Office	7/13	Inspection
Herb Dill	R.O. Staff Specialist	7/13	Inspection
Delbert Bridge	N. C. Fisheries	7/15	Visit
W. Gulberson	Minn. Cons. Dept.	7/17	Fish Rescue
Rev. Forest Strnad	Chisholm, Minn.	7/20	Bird Banding
Wm. Aultfather	R.O. Regional Forester	7/27	Timber Mgmt.
R. Wahlin	R.O. Engineer	7/28	APW Roadwork
David Rose	Crab Orchard Refuge	7/29	Deliver Equip.
Minn. Fed. of Sportsmen			
Club Members- Keith Brodin - In Charge		8/8	Refuge Tour
F. H. Davis	R.O. Supervisor, M&E	8/12	Courtesy Call
Ray Ostlie	Area Utilization Officer	8/18	Surplus Property
E. Olson	Minn. Cons. Dept.	8/20	Fish Rescue
C. Hildebrandt	Minn. Cons. Dept.	8/20	Fish Rescue
R. W. Burwell	Regional Director	9/1	Operations
Joe Richey	R.O. Engineer	9/9	APW Roadwork
Edwin Stevenson	R.O. Engineer	9/9	APW Roadwork
Frank Martin	R.O. Asst. Supervisor	9/11	Housing Insp.
J.J. Sullivan	Road Contractor	9/18	Gravel Contract

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Ray Jensen	R.O. Engineer	9/21	Check Elec. Line
Joe Richey	R.O. Engineer	9/21	APW Roadwork
R. Darland	R.O. Engineering	9/21	Road survey
Ray Jensen	R.O. Engineer	9/28	Elec. Wiring
Robert Sharp	Regional Supervisor, Fish.	9/28	Fish Management
Clyde Schnack	Realty, R.O.	9/29	Land Acquisition
W. Cushman	Realty, R.O.	9/29	Land Acquisition
Ray Wright	R.O. Engineer	10/12	APW Roadwork
Joe Richey	R.O. Engineer	10/12	APW Roadwork
George Moriarity	S.C.S., Aitkin, Minn.	10/14	Field Drainage
F. Martin & Family	R.O. Asst. Supervisor	10/17	Visit
L. Dundas & Son	R.O. Staff Specialist	10/17	Visit
Harry Pinkham	Bureau, U.S.G.M.A.	10/19	Enforcement
C. Hermanson	R.O. Engineer	10/21	APW Roadwork
R. W. Burwell	Regional Director	10/21	Inspection
J. Umberger	Regional Engineer	10/21	Inspection
Arne Belsaas	Forester from Norway	10/29	Inspection
Frank Martin	R.O. Asst. Supervisor	10/29	Inspection
Dr. Wm. Marshall	U.ofM. Wildlife School	10/29	Visit
J. Shaw	R.O. Realty	11/7	Visit
Goodman Larson	Regional Personnel Officer	11/9	Courtesy Call
Joe Richey	R.O. Engineer	11/19	APW Roadwork
Harry Pinkham	Bureau, U.S.G.M.A.	11/25	Enforcement Cases
Joe Richey	R.O. Engineer	12/2	APW Roadwork
L.B. Pospichal	Michigan Cons. Dept.	12/26	Visit

Frequent visitors not listed each time include contractors, Regional Office Engineers, the local game warden, state fish rescue crews and Soil Conservation Service personnel.

C. Refuge Participation:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Participation</u>
Tamarack 4-H Club	1/8	Film and talk
McGregor Flower Club	1/8	Film and talk
Aitkin County Sportsmen Fed.	1/8	Talk
Barnum Biology Class	1/9	Film and talk
Fleming 4-H Club	1/18	Film and talk
Aitkin 4-H Club	1/24	Film and talk
Wealthwood Sportsmen Club	3/3	Slides and talk
Aitkin Sportsmen Federation	3/4	Film
Tamarack Sportsmen Club	3/6	Film and talk
Palisade Sportsmen Club	7/6	Film and discussion
Pine Lake Golden Age Club	7/10	Film
MacDonald Youth Camp	7/13	Film and talk
Minnesota Fed. Sportsmen Club members	8/8	Refuge tour

<u>Group</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Participation</u>
McGregor Flower Club	8/10	Talk with members
Dewline Banding School	8/25-27	Banding school - Agassiz
Enforcement School	9/14-17	Pospichal & Hurd
McGregor-Aitkin Flower Clubs	9/16	Refuge tour
Duluth Bird Club	10/25	Refuge tour
Aitkin Flower Club	11/18	Slides and talk
Aitkin County Sportsman's Club banquet	12/17	Talk

D. Hunting:

Deer hunting was permitted during the firearms season in November and the bow season in December. Archers took no deer but the gun season was a successful one. The season ran for nine days, beginning November 7, 1964 and ending November 15, 1964. Daily car counts and kill records were kept, indicating that 1,000 hunters killed 125 deer. This left an estimated balance of 75 deer on the refuge going into the late bow season. Hunting with bow and arrow was light and no kills were noted.

Waterfowl hunting in the refuge vicinity was excellent. Duck hunting was especially good and about 20 of the refuge goose flock were harvested by hunters in this area when the birds flew out to feed and exercise.

E. Violations:

Several apprehensions were made by refuge personnel during the fall. These were as follows, showing disposition in State Courts:

<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Fine</u>
Lester Hanover Kimberly, Minn.	Transporting a big game animal during closed season.	\$50.00 plus loss of car & rifle
Max Colby Kimberly, Minn.	Transporting uncased firearm.	\$10.00
Bruce Newstrom (Minor) Aitkin, Minn.	Attempt to take waterfowl in closed period.	Juvenile Court. no fine.
Stephen J. Shirrilla (Minor) Aitkin, Minn.	" " " " " and unplugged gun.	" " "
Walter Pavey, Jr. 1600 Jersey Ave. S. St. Louis Park, Minn.	Transporting loaded firearm. Hunting in closed area.	\$100.00 fine 4.00 costs
Russell L. Pavey 6707 Elliot View Road St. Louis Park, Minn.	Transporting loaded firearm. Hunting in closed area.	\$100.00 fine 4.00 costs

<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Fine</u>
Pat Mattes, 616 3rd North New Ulm, Minnesota	Hunting in closed area.	\$100.00 fine 4.00 costs
Marv Schultz New Ulm, Minnesota	Hunting in closed area.	100.00 fine 4.00 costs
Charles A. Freeman McGregor, Minnesota	Taking deer in closed area.	100.00 fine 4.00 costs
Vernon G. Hague 901 1st St. Newport, Minn.	Attempting to take deer in closed area.	100.00 fine 4.00 costs
Louis Christensen Rt. 1, Hastings, Minn.	Taking deer in closed area.	100.00 fine 4.00 costs
John Trichler 2219 McKinley St. N.E. Minneapolis, Minn.	Hunting in closed area.	100.00 fine 4.00 costs

In addition, two cases were turned over to State Warden Cy Jacobson for offenses committed in his area. To-date we have not found out the disposition, but the individuals involved are listed below.

James Sievek Onamia, Minn.	Shooting after hours, no plug in gun, no duck stamp or valid license in his possession.
Alan Bergh 219 Clay St. Anoka, Minn.	Hunting without a license or valid duck stamp.

F. Safety:

No injuries were experienced by refuge personnel during the year. We have now gone 363 days without an accident and the crew is to be commended.

Emphasis has been placed on safe working practices with several office discussions relating to these matters. The importance of safety in work performance evaluation has been repeated.

VII OTHER ITEMS

A. Items of Interest:

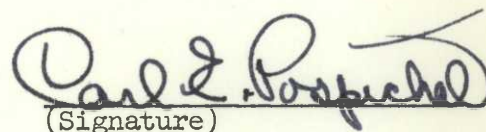
1. Credits:

Mr. Thornbloom's assistance in the preparation of several sections of this report is appreciated. These include most NR forms previously submitted, weather, resource management, and portions of other sections.

2. On November 6, 1964 a daughter, Karen Marie, was born to the Thornblooms. She has three brothers, Greg, Richard, and Mark.
3. Refuge Manager Claude Alexander transferred to the Agassiz Refuge on June 15. He left the Rice Lake Refuge in excellent shape. Carl E. Pospichal, moved to the Rice Lake Refuge on June 23, from the Necedah Refuge in Wisconsin.
4. Maintenceman, Lyle Strand, resigned to return to work with the Minnesota Highway Department. Leonard Hurd replaced Mr. Strand on August 16, 1964.
5. Photographs were taken and processed by Refuge Manager, Pospichal.

SIGNATURE PAGE

Submitted by:

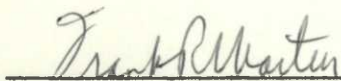

(Signature)

Carl E. Pospichal
Refuge Manager
Title

Date: February 17, 1965

Approved, Regional Office:

Date: March 12, 1965


(Signature)

Asst.
Regional Refuge Supervisor

64-1

Duck trap at Rice Lake. This set was generally good for at least 100 birds per day.

64-2

Partial albino mallard taken several times in the Rice Lake trap.



64-1



64-2

64-3

Canada geese accepted winter conditions.

64-4

Fish trap used by State rescue crew at Rice Lake outlet. Northern pike were transplanted; the rough fish, mostly yellow perch, were given to local residents.

64-4



64-3



64-5

Two beaver lodges and feed bed along the
Rice River pool dike.

64-6

Large Norway pine nearly stripped of bark
by a porcupine.



64-5



64-6

64-7

Contract installation of a culvert on the
new north bog road.

64-8

Contract gravel operation on the new north
bog road. Sub-zero temperatures made
immediate blading necessary.



64-7



64-8

64-9 & 64-10

A couple of nice white-tail bucks taken
during the firearms deer season.



64-9



64-10

64-11

A successful party of deer hunters during
the gun deer season.



64-11